

I, Geronimo Stilton, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as spooky as my friend CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR! She is an

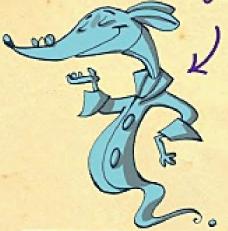
enchanting and MYSTERIOUS mouse with a pet bat named **Bitewing**. Creepella lives in a **CEMETER!**, sleeps in a marble **sarcophagus**, and drives a **hearse**. By night she is a special effects and set designer for **SCARY FILMS**, and by day she's studying to become a **journalist!** Her father, Boris von Cacklefur, runs the funeral home **Fabumouse Funerals**, and the von Cacklefur family owns the **CREEPY** Cacklefur Castle, which sits on top of a skull-shaped mountain in **MYSTERIOUS VALLEY**.

YIKES! I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think Creepella and her family are ANDIOLLY fascinating. I can't wait for you to read this fa-mouse-ly funny and SPECTACULARLY SPOOKY tale!

Geronimo Stilton



Booey the Poltergeist



The mischievous ghost who haunts Cacklefur Castle.

Chef Stewrat



The cook at Cacklefur Castle. He dreams of creating the ultimate stew.



The butler to the von Cacklefur family, and a snob right down to the tips of his whiskers.





Creepella's father, and the funeral director at Fabumouse Funerals.



He was adopted and raised with love by the von Cacklefurs.



The family housekeeper. A ferocious were-canary nests in her hair.



The von Cacklefur family's meat-eating guard plant.

Geronimo Stilton

CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR THE THE THE TOTAL STATES CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR



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A Mysterious Message

Night fell on New Mouse City as quickly as a flash of lightning. The sky was as black as the eyes of a hungry cat. Only the CHEDDAR YELLOW light of the full moon shone through the

DARKNESS. I pulled my jacket closer and hurried on my way.

Sorry, I haven't introduced myself. My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*. I am the publisher of **The Rodent's Gazette**, the most **famouse** newspaper on Mouse Island!

You're probably wondering: What was a



mouse like me doing out on a Spooky night like this? Well, I'll tell you.

You see, I had to go back to my office to get some papers. I had done a bunch of research on SCARY stories. Just thinking about those stories makes my whiskers CUT6 with fright!

Anyway, when I arrived at The Rodent's Gazette, I jumped in surprise. A light was clowing in one of the windows. I thought that was **STRRNGE**. I'm always careful to turn the lights off when I leave. I don't like wasting energy!

I slowly stepped inside my office. Whoosh! A gust of it wind blew through an open window. I didn't remember leaving a window open. I went to close it when . . .







I noticed a purple **SAT** sitting on the windowsill, **STARING** at me!

I let out another scream of **TERROR** and fainted.

I started to wake up when I felt something tickling my whiskers. The bat was waving a wing in front of my nose.

"What are you fainting for?" the bat screeched in my ear.

"Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!
Message for you! Message for you!
Message for you!"

I was terrified. "F-f-f-from wh-whom?" I stammered.

The bat sneered. "Why, from CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR, of course!"

That's when I finally recognized him: It was **Bitewing**, the strange



von Cacklefur family's pet bat.

Then I noticed that Bitewing was holding a sealed roll of papers in his **claws**. Before I could ask what it was, he dropped it on my desk and flew off into the **DARK** night, squealing,

"Publish it! No complaints! That's an order!"

I must admit that I was relieved to see **Bitewing** fly off. I took a deep breath to calm myself. Then I sat down at my desk. With trembling paws, I unrolled the papers and began to read.

My friend CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR had written a long story set in the faraway MYSTERIOUS VALLEY. After reading just a few lines, I could tell I was in for a CHILLING appendice.



CREEPELLA had drawn illustrations to go along with the story. I have to say, she has a very original NAL style!

The story was so fascinating that I couldn't put it down. I read all through the night. I finally finished when the first ROYP OF PUN shone through my office window.

I yawned. "What a strange tale."

At that moment, my nephew **Benjamin** and his friend **Bugsy Wugsy** walked into my office.

"Hey, Uncle, what are you reading?"

Benjamin asked curiously.

I read them one of my favorite sections of the story. They loved it!

"It's such a STRANGE story . . . but THRILLING!" they both agreed.





My sister, THEA, arrived next. She works as a special correspondent for The

Rodent's Gazette. I showed her the story, too.

"These illustrations are STRANGE... but THRILLING!"

Thea commented.

Then my cousin TRAP stumbled into my office. He read the story while eating a cheese sandwich, smearing mozzarella all over my desk.

"It's a STRANGE adventure . . .

but THRILLING!" Trap said.

One by one, all of the mice who work at The Rodent's Gazette came into my office. They were curious to see what all the fuss was about. I shared





Creepella's story and illustrations with all of them.

"What STRANGE characters... but so THRILLING!" they murmured. Soon my office was crowded with chatting mice. The last time I saw everyone so excited was on FREE CHEESE DAY at the market! Then a loud voice rang through my office.

"GRAAAAAANDSON!"





It was my grandfather, William Shortpaws.

"What's happening here? Is this some kind of party?" he yelled.

"Let me tell you —" I began.

"I have no time for stories," he **SNAPPED**.

"Get to work!"

"But this *is* a story. I mean, a story is the reason we're excited," I explained. I handed him Creepella's tale. "What do you think? Isn't it STRANGE?"





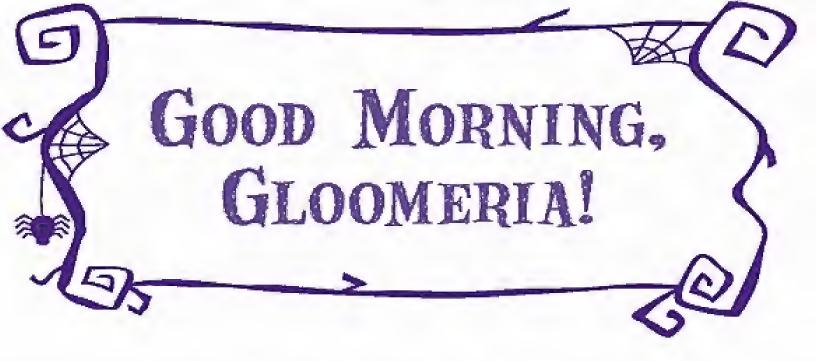
He read the pages, tapping his foot on the floor. His tail twitched. He stroked his Whiskers. Finally, he shouted, "It's an EXTREMELY STRANGE story, Grandson . . . but it's also EXTREMELY THRILLING!"

As you can see, everyone was very excited about Creepella's story. So I decided to publish it! It's called THE THIRTEEN GHOSTS. In fact, it's the very story you hold in your paws.

HAPPY READING!







Deep in the dark heart of Mysterious Valley lay the ancient city of **Gloomeria**. Still wrapped in the **Single of** of night, the city was as dreary as ever. A thick **Fore** floated through the streets like a ghost, pushed by a breath of wind fainter than a **mummy's** sigh.

The people of Gloomeria still **SNORED** in their beds.

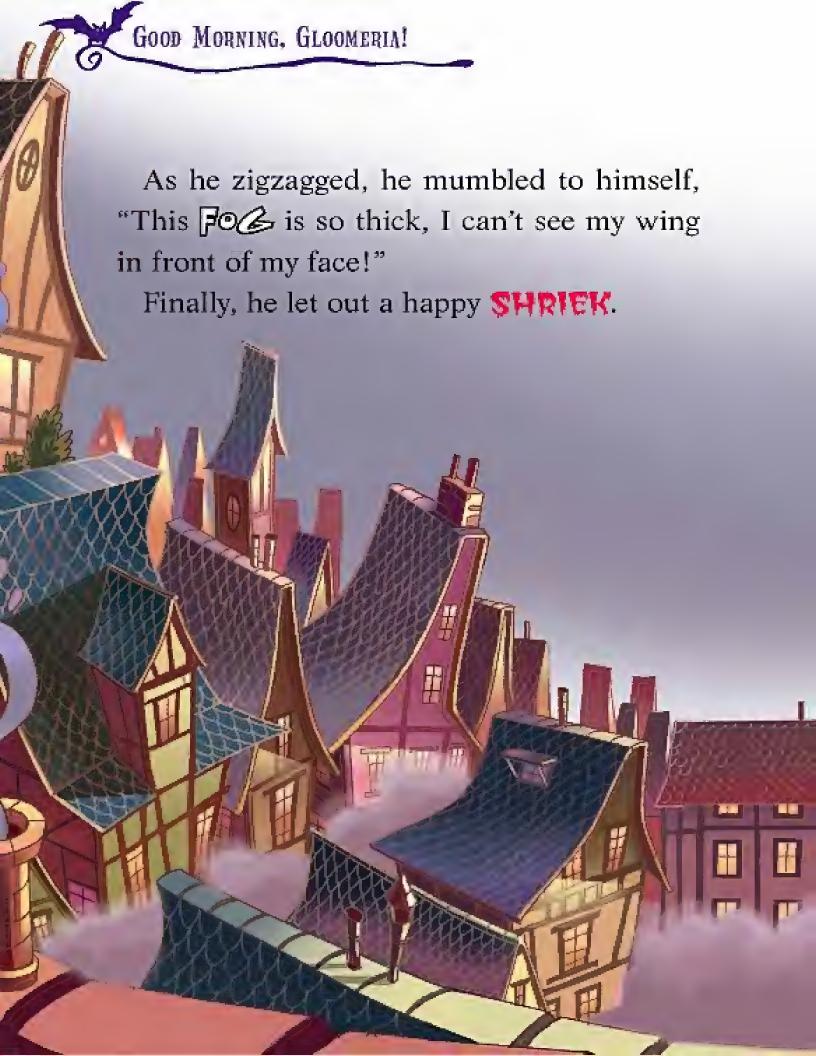
Only a few sneaky shadows moved through the dark streets: the bats from the valley. They zipped and zoomed around before going home for the day. As they soared and swirled, the first light of dawn began to

shipe. A sharp squeal rang through the valley.

"Good morning, Gloomerial"

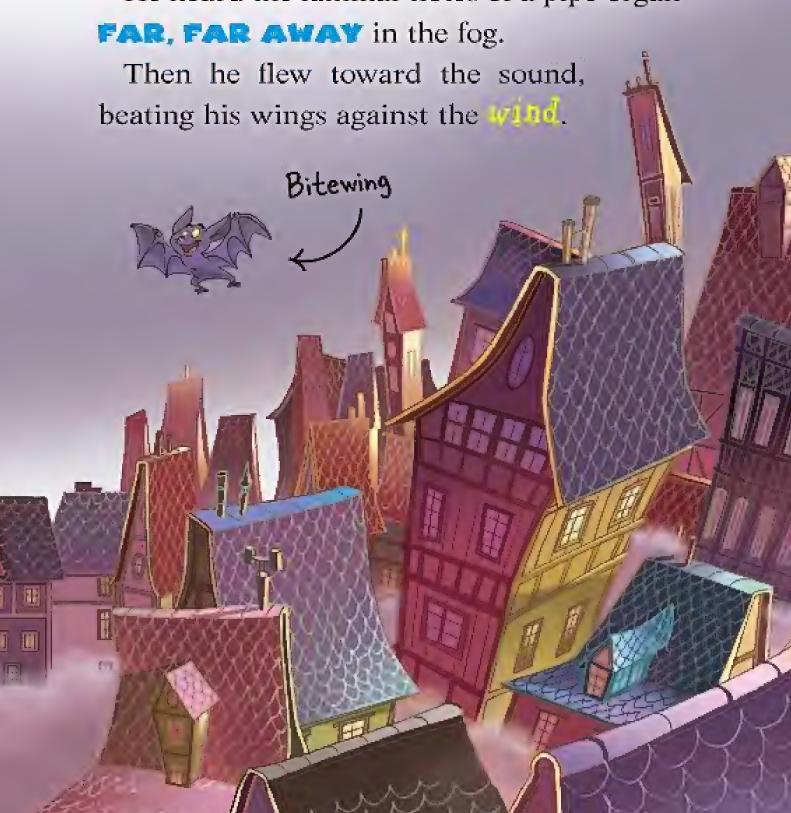
Bitewing with pointy teeth and BRIGHT yellow eyes. Bitewing flew CROCEDLY from one roof to the next. He bounced from chimney to chimney like a ball in a pinball machine. He was lost in the God! He flapped his wings.





"Home! Home! Home!"

He heard the familiar notes of a pipe organ



He flew away from the city, toward an eerie hill shaped like a SKULL. A spooky castle sat on top of the hill: Cacklefur Castle! It was the STRANGE home of the STRANGEST family in the very STRANGE Mysterious Valley—the von Cacklefur family!

Bitewing flew to a window at the top of the castle. Through the glass he heard the



A voice from inside called out, "Bitewing, you're finally HOME! Come here!"

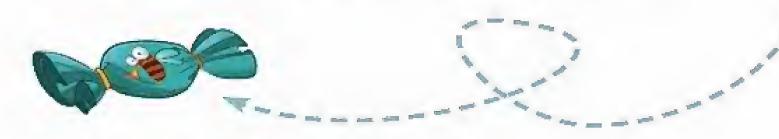
The face of a **bewitching** young mouse appeared at the window. She had **JET-BLRCK** hair and deep **Green** eyes.



It was CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR, a journalist who was always on the hunt for the most mysterious stories. The music that had helped Bitewing find his way home was Creepella's creepy alarm clock.

CREEPELLA tossed a tasty treat to her bat. It was Bug-flavored candy, his favorite!

Bitewing squeaked with happiness.



"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Yummy! Yum! Yummmmmm!"

Creepella looked out at the dismal valley in front of her and sighed. "I must get to work. I have to write a truly CHILLING article for THE SHIVERY NEWS."



Every creature in Mysterious Valley read THE SHIVERY NEWS.

"I already have the title," Creepella continued. "'The Secret Life of the Ghosts of Mysterious Valley.'"

Bitewing fluttered around the room. "The title's not bad, but if you don't HURRY and write the article, you'll never make the deadline!" he squeaked.

"Well, I have to research it first!" Creepella replied, annoyed. "I'm a serious journalist, after all!"

Bitewing giggled. "Hee hee! If you're such a serious journalist, you should be using the right tools!"

He into an old, dusty trunk. Huffing and puffing, he pulled out an old typewriter.

"This belonged to your great-



great-grandmother Misery von Cacklefur, the famous author of **HORROR** novels," the bat explained.

"You're so **QLD-FASHIGNED**, Bitewing," Creepella scoffed. "Don't you know that everyone uses **COMPUTERS** now? Even Misery wouldn't use that old thing if she were alive today."

Her **Green** eyes gleamed. "What I really need is the right **OUTFIT!** Let me get ready. We can talk more when I'm done."

"Of course!" Bitewing agreed. "How can you write anything if you're not properly dressed?"



Creepella put on her makeup in front of the bathroom mirror.

"It would be best if I could meet a lot of GHOSTS," she murmured. "Then I could ask them what everyone wants to know:

'What are your favorite houses

to HAUNT?' 'What is your secret to being SCATY?' Then my article would be truly chilling!"

She brushed her long BLACK MAIR. Then she styled it with a rotting

green GGG made from spiderwebs. Finally, she brushed her cheeks with POWDER the color of the full moon.





"Perfect! Now I look pale and ghostly!" She looked at herself in the mirror, satisfied.

Then she took her favorite PERFUME and sprayed it behind her ears.

"The scent of lizard spit! What a wonderful \$1606h!" she exclaimed.

"Now I just need one last GLOOMY touch."

She carefully applied her favorite lip gloss: **Dismal Drool**.



She looked at herself in her large mirror.

"You look gorgeous, Miss Creepella!" the mirror said in a high-pitched voice.

"Now I just have to pick the right dress."

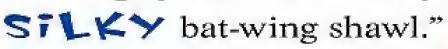
Next Creepella turned to **Wardrobe**, the huge walking, talking cabinet that held all of her clothes.

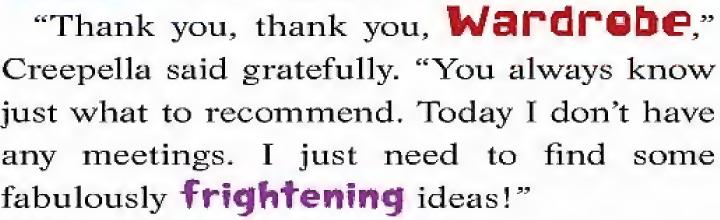
"Wardrobe!" she called. "Are you ready? It's an important day and I need to look extra GLOOMY."

Wardrobe opened its doors as quickly as a bat flaps its wings. "Here are my suggestions, Miss Creepella! Today is a lovely day. It's sixty degrees out, with 99 percent humidity. I suggest outfit number 368: a long purple dress. It has just the right amount of GLOOM about it. I'd finish the look with a pink jacket made of the finest COBWEBS, perfect

for a beautifully HUMID day like today. I'd also recommend a set of imitation WEREWOLF-SKIN gloves.

And if you have an important meeting, you must wear your





She put on the purple dress. Then she

opened her jewelry box and put a Spider necklace around her neck.



Wardrobe

Many legends surround this antique wardrobe, which once belonged to Creepella's great-great-great-grandmother, Chi-Chi von Cacklefur. Chi-Chi was the most famouse fashionista in Mysterious Valley. The stories say that there are secret passageways, trapdoors, and trunks that Wardrobe opens only on special occasions, such as the Whirling Bat Ball. No one knows how big it is, or how many outfits it holds.



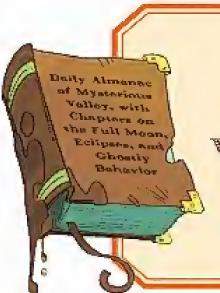


Creepella STGHED, sat down at her computer, and began to write.

Sensational article by Creepella von Cacklefur (to be read only by those who don't suffer from Shivers, frights, and terrors!)

"First of all, what does it mean to be a ghost?" she asked herself.

She walked over to the bookcase and took out an enormous book:



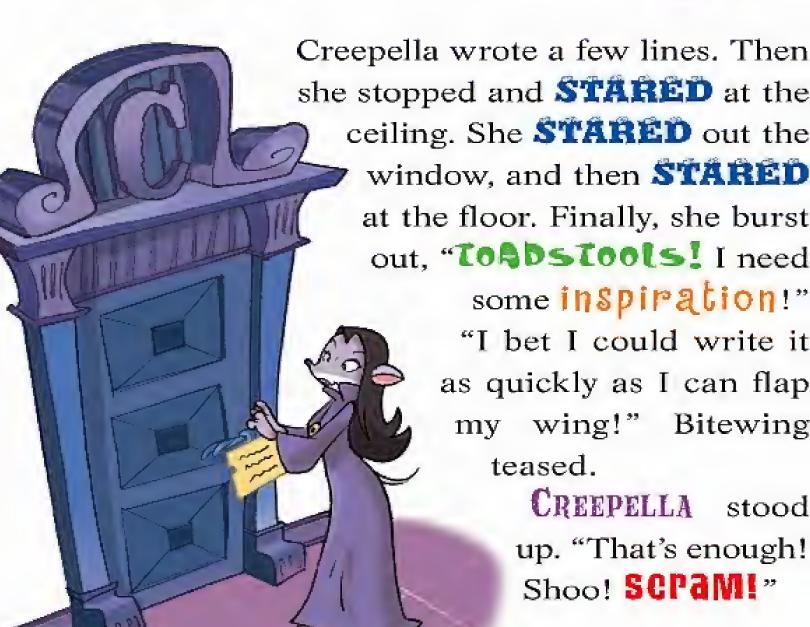
DAILY ALMANAC OF
MYSTERIOUS VALLEY,
WITH CHAPTERS ON THE
FULL MOON, ECLIPSES,
AND GHOSTLY BEHAVIOR

CREEPELLA flipped through the MOLDY pages.

"Aha!" she exclaimed. "Haunted castles . . . prankster ghosts . . . mysterious events. This is just what I need to write my article!"







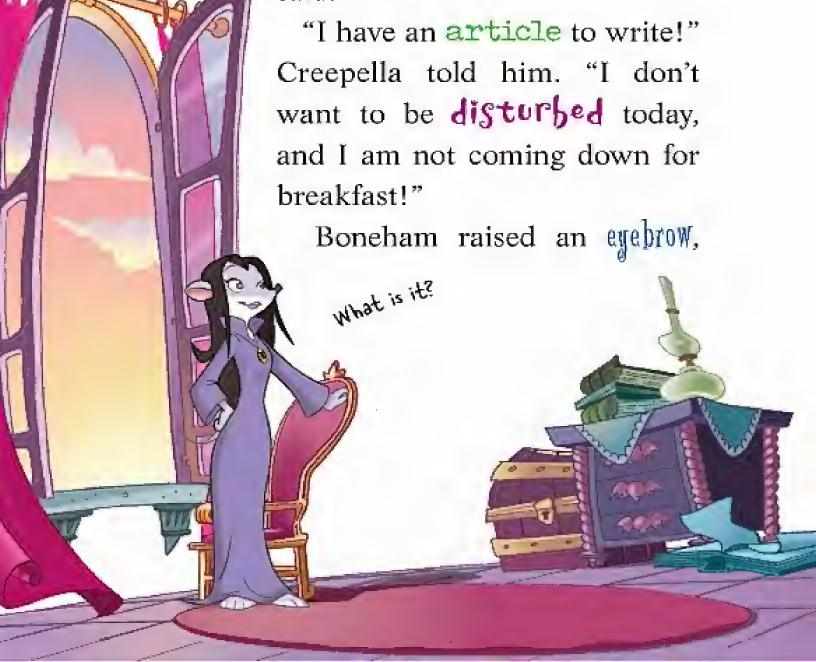
She waved away **Bitewing**, who made a fast exit through the door. Then she hung a on the doorknob:



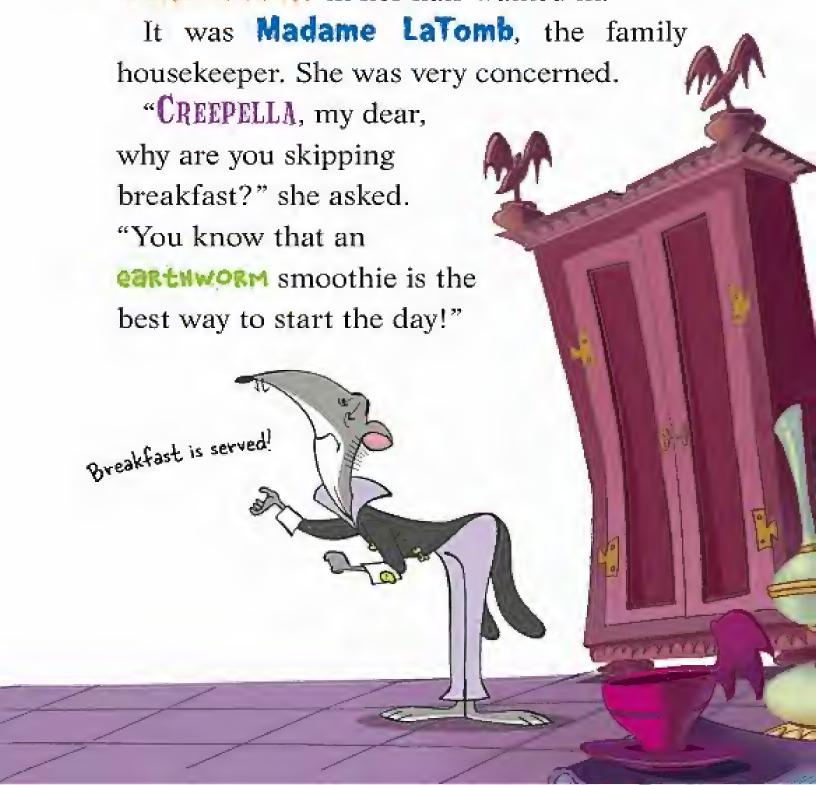
She had just closed the door when someone **knocked** and came in. It was **Boncham**, the von Cacklefur family's butler.

"Miss Creepella, I must inform you that

breakfast is served!" the butler said.



but he didn't leave. Seconds later, someone else knocked on the door. A mouse with a WERE-CANARY in her hair walked in.





"Yes, but I need to write," Creepella insisted.

She started to close the door, but two more mice stepped in. Now she was face-to-face with her father, Boris von Cacklefur, and Grandma Crypt.

Their Whiskers were

twitching with worry.

"Creepella, are you okay?" her father asked. "Does your throat HURT, or your head, or your feet, or your back, or your tummy, or your —"

















Creepella interrupted him. "Thanks, but I'm **F-I-N-**. There's nothing **wrong!**"

Suddenly, they heard strange noises. It sounded like someone was chewing on the doorknob:



It was **CHIMPERS**, the von Cacklefur family's meat-eating plant.

"Chompers, get your teeth off of my doorknob!" Creepella scolded. "You'll scratch it!"

A big red **CPCKRPaCH** crawled out from behind the plant. It dragged a cookie behind it.











Chompers





Kafka

The cockroach offered the cookie to Creepella.

Creepella sighed. "Thanks, Kafka, you're sweet. But I don't want your cookies for breakfast!"

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Who is it now?" Creepella asked.

The door opened and in came CHEP STEWRAT, the family cook, dragging a big pot of stew.

"Miss Creepella, please tell me the truth!"

CHEP STEWRAT looked very upset. "Are you skipping breakfast because you hate my stew? Where did I go wrong? I could add a nice stinky sock for more flavor. Or a little piece of dragon BONE. Or maybe some carthworm spleen. Tell me the problem, and I'll fix it!"













The chef started to cry, and Creepella tried to make him feel better. "CHEP STEWRAT, your stew is DELICIOUS as always," she began. "It's just that . . ."

Chef Stewrat blew his nose and then threw his handkerchief into the pot. "SNIFF! You're just saying that to make me feel better. But I know that you don't like my stew anymore. I'll never cook again!"

Shivereen, Creepella's niece, Whispered in her ear. "Auntie, look how sad CHEP STEWRAT is," Shivereen said. "Please come downstairs and have breakfast!"

CREEPELLA gave in. "All right, I'll have breakfast!"

Breakfast wouldn't help with her article, but at least











Shivereen





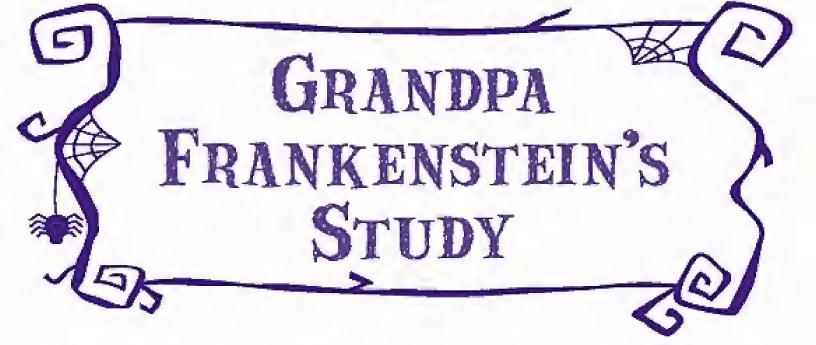
Chef Stewrat was smiling again.

They all went down to the dining room. The terrible twins, Snip and Snap, were already seated at the table. When they saw Creepella come in, they both shouted, "Sit here next to us!"

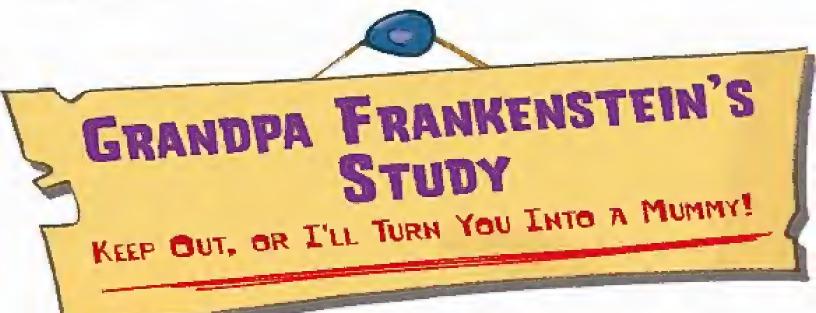
Creepella sighed. "I know you two—you've probably covered the chair with STINKY wild lavender oil, or some other flowery scent. Yuck!"

The twins were disappointed. "We never get to play PRanks on you," they complained. "You always figure them out!"

Creepella chose another seat and quickly ate her breakfast. "I need to write my article in peace," she muttered to herself. "I'll have to go to the only quiet place in the castle. . . ."



After breakfast, CREEPELLA left the dining room. She walked down a long hallway, turned right, and opened a squeaky door. She passed through a crypt. Then she walked down a narrow staircase, ducking to avoid the Spiders hanging from the ceiling. Finally, she stopped in front of a door with a sign on it:



"Grandpa, it's me!" Creepella shouted. She opened the door and entered the COFFIN-shaped study. Dark purple velvet covered the walls, and the room was stuffed with all kinds of unusual gadgets and equipment.

Grandpa Frankenstein's green sout stuck up over a lab table in the back of the room. "Come in, my dearest granddaughter!" he called out in a shrill voice. "I'm over here, conducting an **EXPERIMENT!**"

Creepella was going to ask what kind of experiment it was, when . . . **bang!** A bright flash of **lightning** lit up the room. Creepella rushed over to her grandfather, worried.

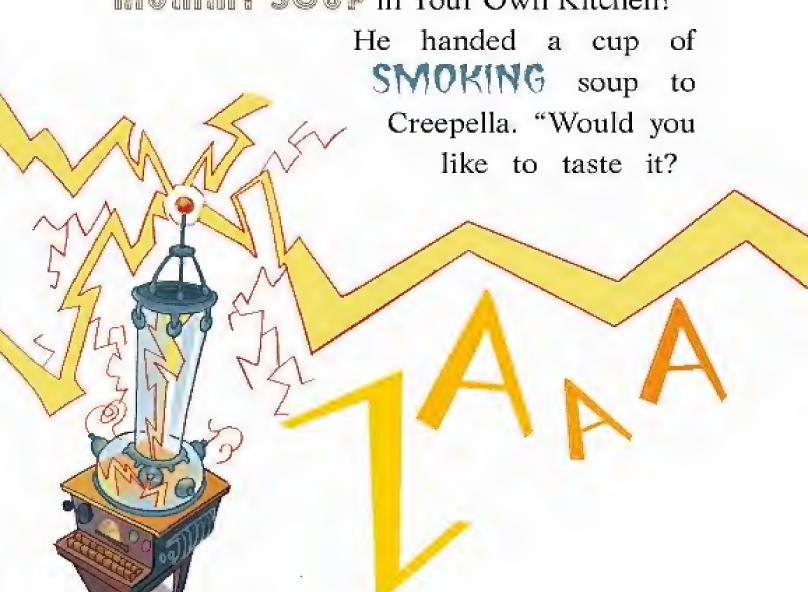
"Grandpa, are you okay?" she asked.

"P-p-p-perfect!" he replied with a stutter.



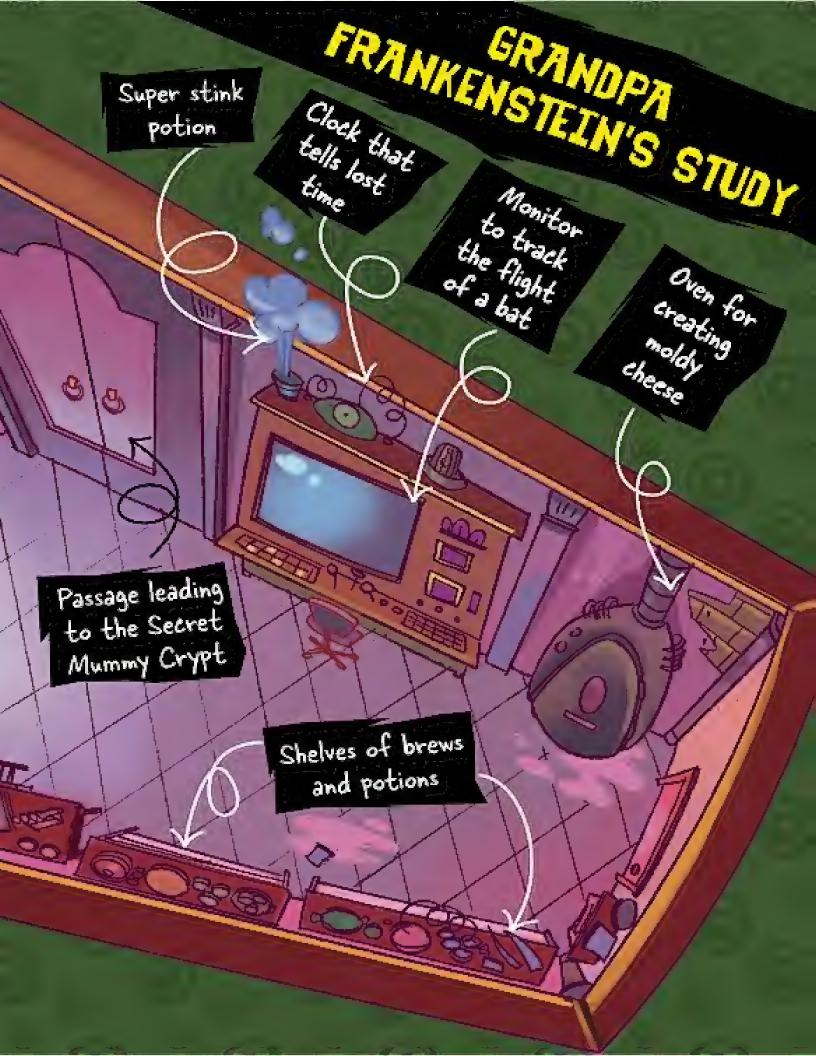
His FUR was sticking straight up all over his body! But he was too excited to notice.

"Hurray! The experiment was a success! I have made **POWDERED** soup mix using mummy bandages," he said proudly. "I can see the headlines already: 'Prepare Authentic in Your Own Kitchen!'"







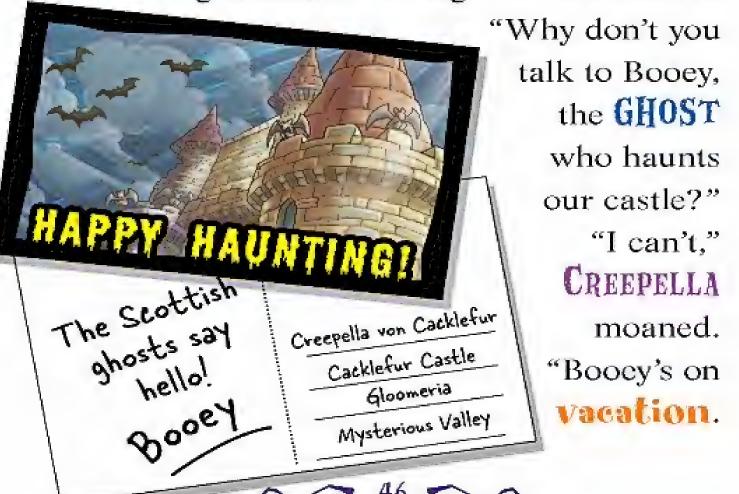


Grandpa Frankenstein hugged Creepella. "Of course I will help you, my dear granddaughter!" he cried.

Booey

"Thank you, Grandfather. You see, to write a truly GHILLING article, I need to interview a real ghost," Creepella explained.

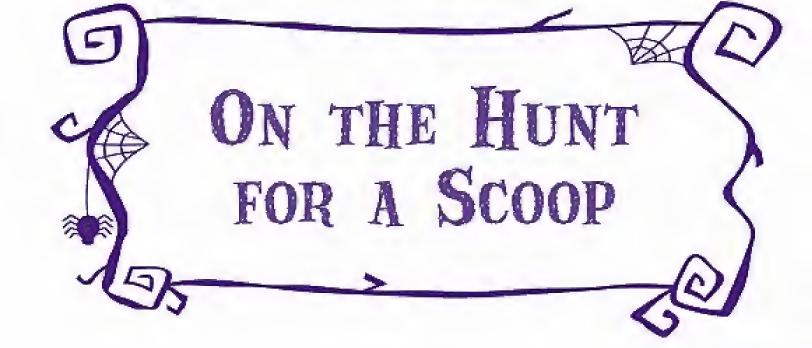
Her grandfather thought for a moment.



He's haunting an old Scottish castle. We just got a **POSTCARD** from him. Who knows when he's coming back!"

Grandpa Frankenstein thought some more. Then he smacked his paw on his forehead. "I've got it! My grandfather's grandfather's grandfather's grandfather's grandfather used to say that Squeakspeare Mansion was HAUNTED by ghosts," he told her. "Do you know it? It's a deliciously DREARN mansion on the outskirts of GLOOMERIA. Why don't you check it out?"

Creepella hugged him. "Great idea, Edge Grandpa. I'll go to Squeakspeare Mansion right now!"



Creepella jumped into her car, a TURBORAPID 3000. The convertible hearse was the best one on the market.



Shivereen ran after her. "Auntie, are you going after a Scoop? Can I go with you?"

"Of course!" CREEPELLA replied. "Bring the camera. You can be my official PHOTOGRAPHER!"

Bitewing fluttered past them, and Creepella caught him by the foot. "I need you to come, too, please. You can help me take notes!"

The purple bat sighed. "I was just going to take a nap!"

Shivereen and Bitewing strapped on their seat belts. Then Creepella drove down the ong road leading away from Cacklefur Castle.

"Bitewing, you know every road in Mysterious Valley," Creepella said. "Which way to Squeakspeare Mansion?"

Bitewing looked around. "Let's see, Squeakspeare Mansion. First, drive down MAUNTED MILL. Then turn right on MUMMY ROAD."

"What's next?" Creepella asked.

"Cross the Bridge of Shaky Steps over the Whirling River," Bitewing instructed. "Now turn left on Ectoplasm Road. Squeakspeare Mansion is number thirteen!"

Then he started to hop in his seat.

"THAT'S IT! WE'RE HERE!"

Creepella stopped in front of a dark **mansion** with lots of TOWERS and balconies.

"Wow, this place is GHOULISH!" Bitewing squealed in excitement.

Creepella nodded. "The outside looks QUITE SPOCKY. I hope we find some ghosts inside!"

"I hope so, too!" Shivereen agreed. "But how are we going to get in?"

Suddenly, Bitewing's EYES lit up



with **Surprise**. There's someone — or **SOMETHING** — moving in the garden!"

Shivereen looked over the rickety garden fence. "Bitewing's right, Auntie! There's a big pile of **suitcases** in there. I can see a tail sticking out from behind them. Maybe it's a ghost!"

With a nod, Creepella got out of the car and slowly crept up to the pile.

YANK! She gave the tail a good tug. "I've caught you, my dear ghost!" she shouted.

"Aaaaaaaaargh!"

a voice screamed.





Bitewing fluttered around the mouse. "Confirmed! He is definitely not a ghost! He's a mouse from his FUR to his Whiskers!" The shaken-up mouse sat down on a suitcase. "Pouncing bookmarks! Wh-wh-who are you?" he asked, tenderly rubbing his tail. "I'm Creepella von Cacklefur, and this is my niece Shivereen," Creepella replied. "Who are you?" "My name is Squeakspeare, Billy **SQUEAKSPEAPE**," the mouse responded. "Marvelous!" Creepella cried happily. "Then you must be the owner of Squeakspeare Mansion. Can you let us in?" "No, I can't . . . I mean, yes . . .



Billy Squeakspeare

WHO IS HE? He is the famouse author of supersappy romantic novels. His biggest bestseller is Two Hearts and a Pot of Fondue, a love story set in a cheese shop.

WHERE DOES HE LIVE? Billy just moved to a dark mansion on the edge of Gloomeria. He inherited the house from his great-great-great-uncle William. He hopes to find peace and quiet there so he can write his novels. But he doesn't know that things are never peaceful in Mysterious Valley. . . .

HOBBY: Growing roses to give to his girlfriend . . . if he ever gets one.

SECRET WISH: To star in a movie based on one of his novels, but it's only a wish. In real life, he's much

too nervous to act in front of a camera!



40... I mean, Yes

I mean, who knows?" he stuttered.

"Is your tongue tied in a KNOT or something?" Creepella asked impatiently.

"No," Billy replied. "But I just inherited the mansion, and I haven't been able to get in myself!"

Creepella raised an eyebrow.

"Don't you have the KEYS?"

Billy's whiskers were twitching nervously. "I do, but as soon as I step through the door, something pushes me back out! I end up flat on my fur with all four paws in the air."

"I smell a mystery!" Creepella exclaimed. "Are there any CLUES?"

BILLY took a piece of paper out of his pocket and gave it to Creepella. "I don't know about clues, but I do have this LETTER.

FROM THE LAW OFFICES OF GHASTLY, GHOSTLY, GLOOMY, GHOULISH, AND GLOP

13 Misfortune Way. Gloomeria, Mysterious Valley

To the distinguished Mr. Billy Squeakspeare:

At last we've found you! Where have you been hiding? We wish to inform you that you have inherited a mansion from your distant relative, William Squeakspeare.

Squeakspeare Mansion is on the outskirts of Gloomeria, in the lovely (but of course, that's a matter of taste) Mysterious Valley.

We have enclosed the keys to the mansion, should you wish to live there (although you may change your mind!). We wish you the best of luck (you'll need it!).

Sincerely, Gregor Ghastly, Esq.

- P.S. I'm including a map of the house, but I wouldn't rely on it. The walls seem to be always moving!
 - P.P.S. If you have any trouble, don't ask us for help!
 - P.P.P.S. Could you send me an autographed copy of Two Hearts and a Pot of Fondue?

I received it a month ago from a lawyer in Mysterious Valley."

Shivereen clasped her together. "You wrote Two Hearts and a Pot of Fondue? That is a Super-romantic novel! I've read it thirteen times!" she squealed.

"Why, yes, that's right. I'm a writer," Billy replied.

CREEPELLA wasn't impressed. She had her own article to worry about. "Good for you, Billy," she snapped. "Now let's stop wasting time."

"Yesss! We're hunting for ghosts!"

Bitewing added, flapping his wings.

Billy turned PALE. "Gh-gh-ghosts?" he stuttered.

"Yesss!" Bitewing squeaked. "We've heard that your house is **FULL** of them! They must

be the ones who pushed you out the door."

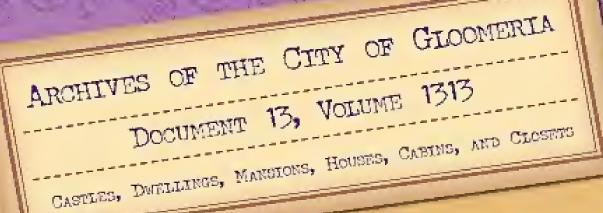
"Let's go FiND them," Creepella said, impatiently tapping her paw.

Billy tried to **PROTEST**. "Do we have to? I mean, really . . ."

But it was no use. Creepella took him by the arm and **PRACCED** him up to the front door. Shivereen and Bitewing followed behind.

"Billy, dear, please open the door,"

she said firmly. "If we go in together, they won't be able to push all of us out!"





SQUEAKSPEARE MANSION

13 ECTOPLASM ROAD, GLOOMERIA, MYSTERIOUS VALLEY

This gloomy home was built in 1813 by the famouse architect Timothy Tombstone, a specialist in the design of cemeteries. With its frosted windows and twisted towers, it's considered

to be a masterpiece.

In 1913, director Cecil B.

DeMouse chose it as the

location for the classic

horror film, SCREAMS

AT 'MIDNIGHT.

It has changed hands
several times over the
years. No one has ever
lived there for very long.
That's probably because it's
haunted by ghosts.





Creepella went in first. A MOLDY stench tickled her whiskers. The room was as



came from three **flickering** candles.

Billy trembled like a leaf. He thought he saw curious EYES staring at him from every direction.

"D-d-d-o you think we're b-b-being watched?" he stammered.



Bitewing silently flew next to Billy and whispered in his ear,

"B000000000000000!"

Billy jumped. "Help! What was that?"
Bitewing laughed. "It's just me, Silly Billy!"
Before they could take another step,
Billy shrieked again. "Wh-who pulled my
whiskers?"

"You just walked into some COBWEBS," Bitewing said with a giggle. (Being a bat, he had no trouble getting around in the dark.)

"Still," **CREEPELLA** said thoughtfully. "Something's not right. Those candles just went out."

"You're right!" Shivereen cried. "I bet a GHOST blew them out!"

"It was probably a **GHOST** who lit them in the first place," Bitewing pointed out.

Billy shuddered. "A GH-GHOST?" He looked terrified.

Creepella stayed calm. She walked to a door and opened it.



"Looks like the kitchen," she remarked.

A teapot was steaming on the kitchen table in the center of the room. Some teabags were sticking out of the lid: Mousylvania Moldy Morning Braw. Next to the teapot, someone had left a half-eaten triple chocolate cake covered in icing.

"Hmm. It looks like someone was just making a snack," Shivereen guessed.

"Yes, you're right. Someone just made a SNAGK!" Bitewing squeaked.

"JUMPING MUMILS!" Creepella exclaimed. "Billy, someone just made a SNAGK! Can you believe it?"

"A S-SNACK? How t-terrifying!" Billy said, shivering.

"It's another **CLUE!**"

Creepella said. "We must keep exploring the

house. It's so deliciously gloomy. Don't you think so, **BILLY**?"

Before the poor frightened mouse could answer, CREEPELLA grabbed one of his sleeves and dragged him out of the kitchen.



Before **Billy** could argue, the sound of screeching music filled the air. The music ended on a **SMRILL** note that sounded like a crying cat.

"A violinist!" Shivereen exclaimed. "Let's find him!"

"Yes, let's find him!" Bitewing repeated. He did a somersault in the air.

"Let's find him," Creepella agreed. She looked at the map of the house, but it was full of eraser marks. She tossed it aside.

"But wh-why do we have to f-find him?" Billy asked, terrified. "Let's leave him in PEACE . . . whoever he is."

But Creepella was already heading down a loooooooooong, dark hallway.



They stopped in front of a door with a sign on it:



"Billy, Open this door!" CREEPELLA demanded.

"B-but it says . . ."

"Don't let that **ARE you," she told him. "It's your house, after all!"

Billy gulped and opened the door to reveal... a room turned **upside down!**All of the **FURNITURE** was hanging from the ceiling!



"It's n-n-not possible!" Billy stuttered in shock. "Everything's t-t-turned around."

Bitewing **ZIGZAGGED** in front of Billy. "Ha-ha! Tongue-tied again!"

Billy turned PALE. "M-my head is s-spinning," he said, and then he fainted.

"Poor thing," Shivereen said. "He didn't realize it's an illusion!"

Creepella pointed to the floor. "A typical magician's TRICK. MIRRORS reflect a drawing on the floor up onto the ceiling."

Bitewing giggled. "And he fell for it!"

Creepella looked down at Billy. "Maybe there are some **SMELLING SALLS** in the bathroom," she said. "Let's carry him there."

In the bathroom, they found an old brass bathtub filled with swampy water.

Shivereen dipped her paw into the tub.

"This water is

Boiling Hot!"

she shrieked.

"Another CLUE," Creepella

said. "This house is not

empty. Who would take a

bath here?"

"Him!" Bitewing giggled.

He found a bucketful of

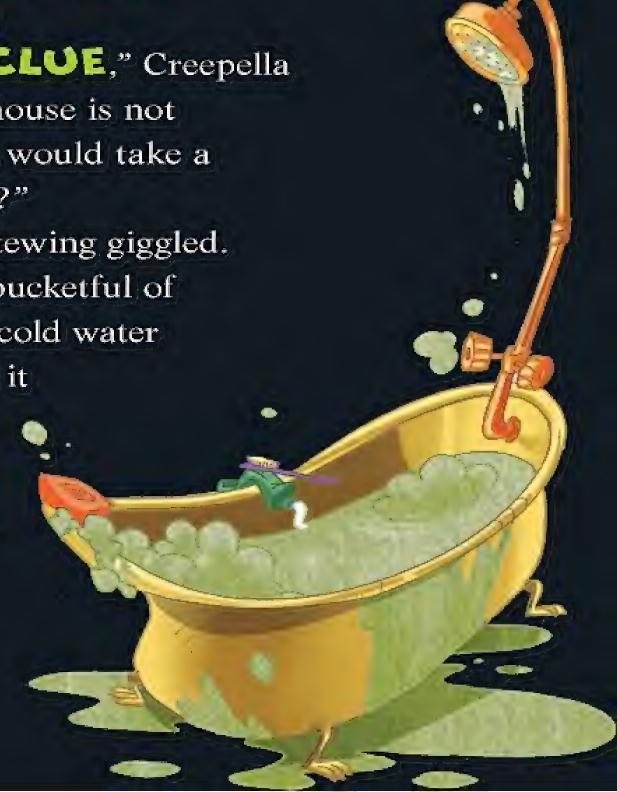
FREEZING cold water

and dumped it

onto Billy's

head.

"Wake up, Billy!"



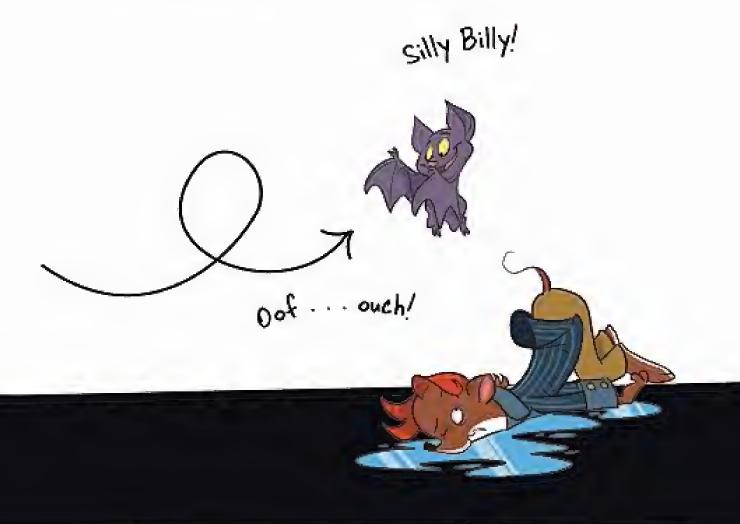
But poor Billy had woken up just before the **FREEZING** water hit him. He stood up and **SLIPPE** on the wet floor. **Bam!** His snout hit the floor once more.

"Billy, you need to GTOP all this fainting," Creepella complained. "We have to go look for more CLUES!"



Creepella and the others left the bathroom. Billy slowly sat up and rubbed his **bruised** whiskers. Suddenly, he realized he was ALONE.

"THIS H-HOUSE SCARES M-Me!" Then he to catch up with Creepella, Shivereen, and Bitewing.





Billy ran down the hallway and entered a dark bedroom. The BIGGEST thing in the room was a large wooden wardrobe.

"Is anybody h-here?" he called out.

Nobody answered. Billy turned to leave when he heard a loud squeak. He looked back to see the doors of the wardrobe open slowly. A faint light GLOWED inside, giving him a glimpse of a secret passage.

Billy screamed,

"Aaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

Creepella ran into the room. "Billy, why are you screaming?"

Bitewing flew in. "Seriously, you're going to wear out your voice with all that **SCREAMING**," he added.

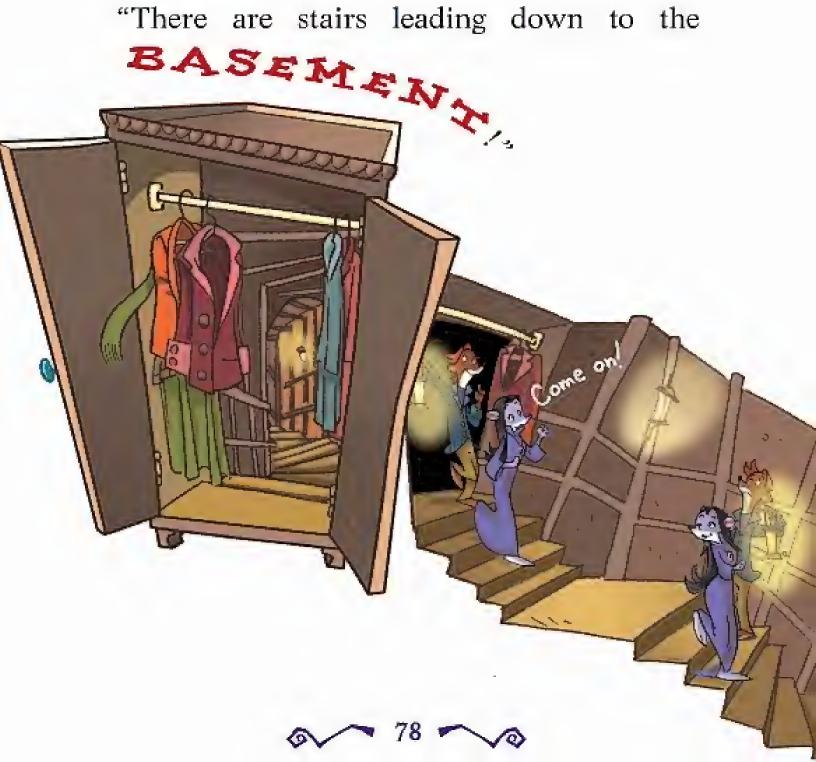
Billy picked up an old Lantern and shone it on the wardrobe. "It's a secret passage. Look!"





Creepella raised her left eyebrow. "Hmm. It's a DARK, pamp, moldy secret passage." Bitewing flew down the passageway.

"There are stairs leading down to the



"It's a mazing down here! Dark and damp and dusty! Just perfect!"

"Ooh! Come on, let's go," said Shivereen happily.

Billy refused to budge. "NO! NO! NO! I'm not going down there! There's nothing you can say to convince me! This time I'm not moving an inch!"

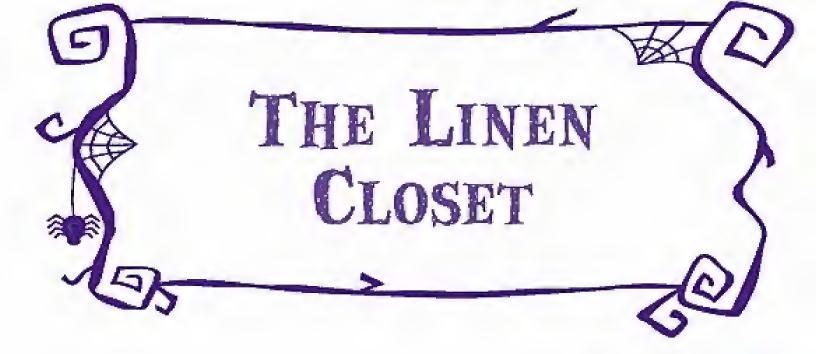
But Creepella pushed him into the wardrobe. The doors **Slammed** shut behind them with a frightening bang. Billy had no choice — he had to follow her.

They walked DOWN, DOWN, DOWN, until they came to the entrance of a hidden in the darkness.









Bitewing led them through the twisting, turning maze.

"Let's go, Billy, move your Paws!" Creepella scolded.

Billy followed reluctantly. Soon they came to a new door marked with a **Strange** sign.



The door opened by itself with a sinister squeak.



Suddenly, a puff of air as cold as a MUMMY's breath blew out the lantern.

Now they could see a strange GLOW coming from the center of the room. The light came from underneath a large sheet covering a table and chairs.

Billy felt a shiver from the top of his ears to the tip of his tail.

"Wh-what's under the sh-sheet?" he stammered.

CREEPELLA walked up to the table. "Let's find out!" she shouted.

Billy ran to stop her as she grabbed the Billy ran to stop her as she grabbed the Billy ran to stop her as she grabbed the





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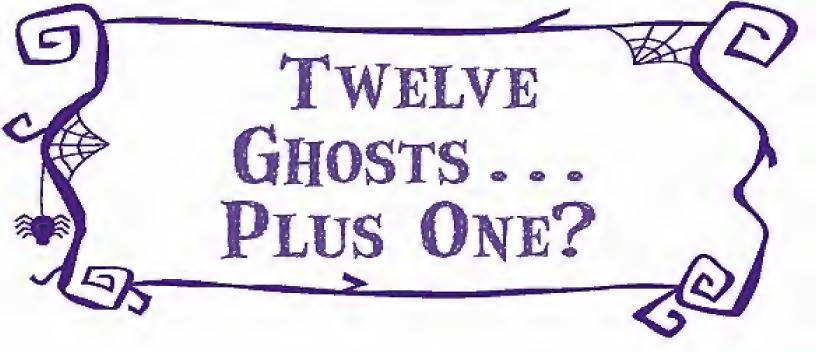
Three cheers for the cook!

Yummy mummy! It's a soup right out of my nightmares!

The spider soup is marvelous!







"This is too much!" Billy shouted. "I'M

His snout hit the floor once again. When he opened his eyes, he saw an incredible sight. Twelve ghosts were seated at the table, including a dog, a spider, and a mosquito! Each one of the ghosts glared at the intruders.

Creepella was so happy. Her search for ghosts was over at last!

"So nice to meet you," she said. "Can you please tell me who you are?"

"Y-yes," Billy stuttered. "Wh-who are you?"

A tall, thin ghost with his nose in the air was the first to speak.

"I am Simon Snootysnout, the butler of Squeakspeare Mansion," he said in a **Snobby** voice. "It is my duty to inform you that we do not allow intruders of any kind here. You may not stay here. **LEAVE! DEPART!** VAMOOSE! **GET OUT! CHOO!**"

He floated around Creepella and the others, making Billy tremble with fright.

"How RUDE!" Creepella replied with a huff. "This is Billy's house, and we are his guests. You are the ones HEUNTING this house. Why don't you leave?"

"Show a little respect!" the butler replied. "We don't haunt this house. We live here. This is our home, whether your like it or not!"





BLACKSMITH/LOCKSMITH

He makes links of clanking chains for ghosts.

He'll make them out of solid gold by request.

BONNIE

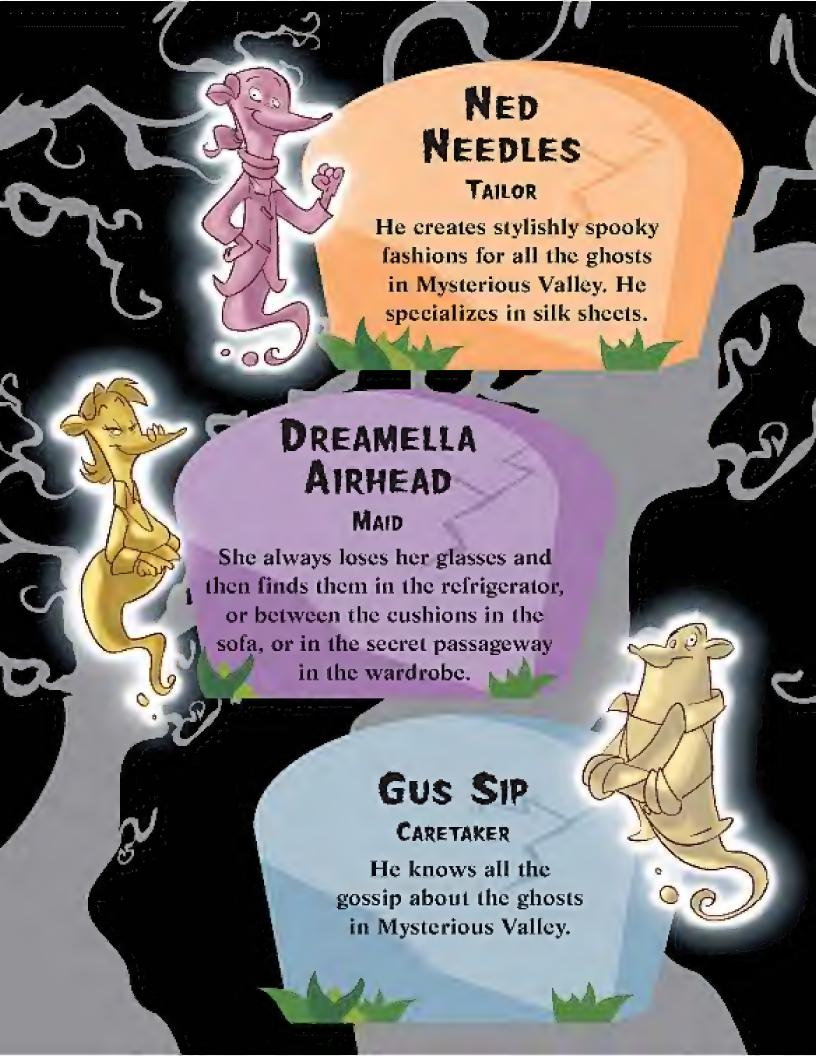
Cook

She dreams of opening a gloomy restaurant for ghosts called The Last Meal. Her specialty is invisible meatballs.

TED TRIMMERTAIL

GARDENER

He is a master of making plants wither. Thanks to him, the mansion's garden is wild and full of thorny bushes.





Billy turned white. "Maybe they're right," he whispered to Creepella. "We should go."

"Billy, don't be ridiculous!" Creepella said firmly. "It's your house, and you have the right to live here."

Simon Snootysnout froze. "Book!" he exclaimed. "Does that mean you're a writer?" "Um . . . yes," Billy admitted.

The butler flew right in front of Billy's face. "A Writer? A Writer?"

"That's right," Billy repeated.

"A Writer?" the butler asked again. "Really?"

"YES!" Billy shouted.

Snootysnout turned to the other ghosts.

"Did you hear that? He's a writer!"

The ghosts began to dance with joy around Billy. The poor mouse looked like he might FATNT again.

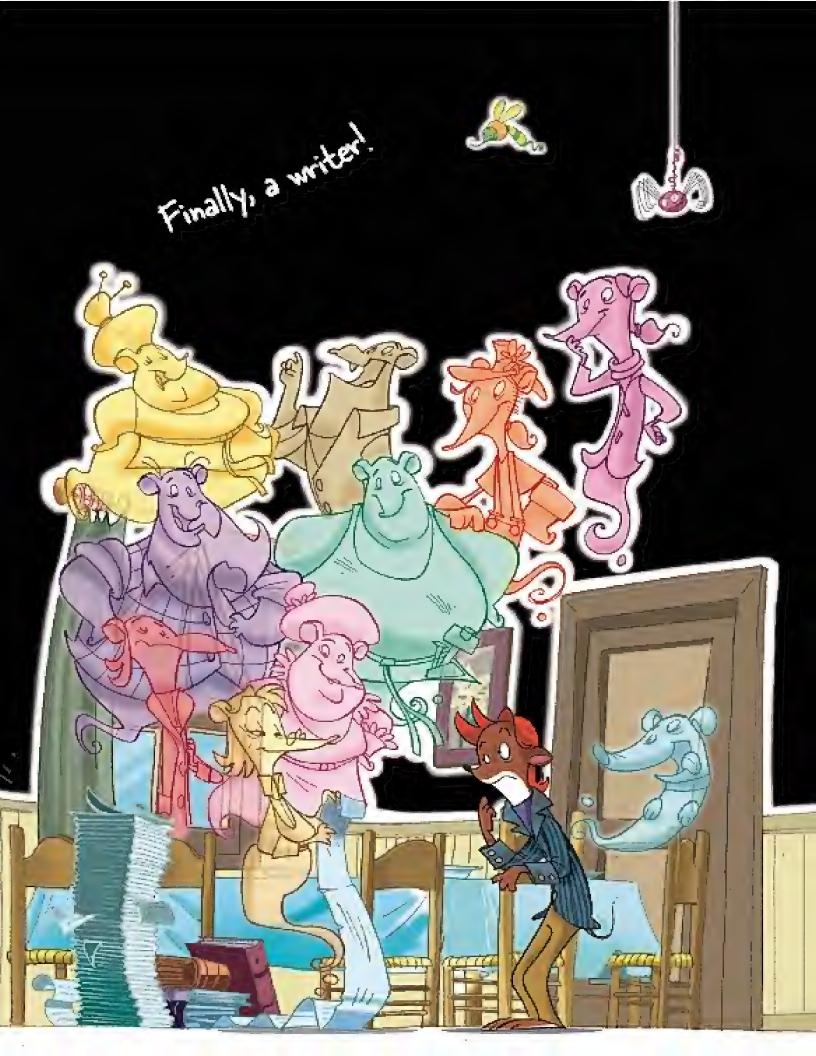
"We've been waiting for this day for a century!" Snootysnout cried.

Billy was CONFUSED. "What do you mean?"

The butler snapped his fingers. "Dreamella, bring all of our notes here!" he ordered.

The maid vanished. A moment later, she reappeared with a pile of PAPERS that went all the way up to the ceiling!

"These notes describe all of the records, events, Secrets, and mysteries of Squeakspeare Mansion," the butler explained. He pointed at Billy dramatically. "We just need a famouse writer to transform them into a book of true TERROR!"



Billy gulped. "Actually, I have other things to do," he said nervously.

"Don't WORRY, Mr. Writer. It won't take very long," replied Dreamella. "According to our calculations, you would only need to write about \$\mathbb{754}\$ volumes of \$\mathbb{3,000}\$ pages each. That should only take about thirty years!"

Billy gasped.

"As long as?" Billy asked.

"As long as . . ." the butler repeated.

"As long as what?" Billy asked.

"As long as the **thirteenth ghost** agrees!" the butler finished.

"AND WHO IS THE THIRTEENTH GHOST?"

Creepella burst out impatiently.

Arf, the ghost dog, floated up to Creepella and wagged his tail.

"Arf will take you to the thirteenth ghost," Dreamella said. "Follow him!"

The dog barked and floated through the door at full speed.

Who is the thirteenth ghost?





The dog left the linen closet and **ram** through the maze in the basement.

He stopped in front of a **purple**

door. Creepella opened it.

The walls of the round room were filled with bookcases. Each shelf was **5TUFFED** with books.

"Brrr, it's **cold** in here!" Billy exclaimed with a shiver.

"I agree! I always say it's too cold in here," said a deep voice.



The voice came from a plump ghost with long, curly whiskers. He floated to a **Rusty** stove and smacked it with his walking stick.

"This old **WREGK** of a stove doesn't work properly," he complained. "Hank! Come quickly!"

The blacksmith ghost appeared in the room. "Still having problems with the stove, Mr. William?" he asked.

Billy gasped. "William? You're William? SQUEAKSPEAKE? My great-great-great-uncle William?" he asked in surprise.

The ghost turned around and smiled. "Then you must be my great-great-great-nephew Billy! Well, tickle my whiskers, what a wonderful surprise! Come here and give me a hug."

Billy threw his arms around the ghost . . . and then **GEGG** snoutfirst onto the floor.



William laughed. "Sorry, I forgot. We can't touch!"

Creepella cleared her throat. "I'm sorry to interrupt your family reunion, but I have some interviews to do!" she snapped.

"Interviews?" William asked. "Ah, I remember those. I was interviewed many



times after I won the Mysterious Valley Comedy Contest. Did you know that I won the famous Laugh Your Tail Off award seventeen years in a row?"

"Fantastic!" Creepella exclaimed. "If you'd like to tell some jokes, I'll include them in the article I'm writing about ghosts."

"Of course!" William replied. "My "OHLISM" jokes are guaranteed to make your ulliskers twitch!"

Then he winked at Billy. "What a **lovely** mouse you've chosen for a girlfriend, nephew. When are you getting married?"

Billy looked more AFRATD than when he had seen the ghosts. "M-m-married?"

Creepella put her paw on his shoulder. "Don't be such a **StiCK-iN-tHe-MUD**, Billy," she said. "I think we make a good couple. What do you think, Shivereen?"

Shivereen got a dreamy look on her face. "You're a couple from my **DEEPEST** nightmares," she replied. "My favorite aunt and the writer who's dearest to my heart!"

"Bouncing bookmarks! I don't want to get married!" Billy squealed.

"But you must," insisted William. "At your age you're almost too moldy for MARRIAGE."

Bitewing zipped between them. "CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR married to a scaredy-mouse writer of romance novels. Hee hee! That's a joke," he said gleefully.

"I know better jokes than that," William boasted. "Listen to these!"

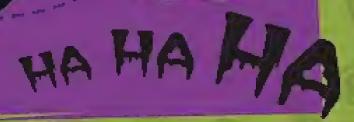
WILLIAM SQUEAKSPEARE'S GHOULISH JOKES

Why do dragons sleep during the day? So they can fight Knights!

UA HA HA

Why did the skeleton
stay home from the dance?
Because he had
no-body to go with!

Where do ghosts like to go swimming? In the Dead Sea





Creepella wrote down Great-great-great-uncle William Squeakspeare's jokes. Then she interviewed all twelve of the other **ghosts** in the house.

"Finally, I have enough material for my article!" she said happily.

"Let's return to Cacklefur Castle!
You must start writing right away!"
Bitewing shrieked.

Meanwhile, Billy brought all of his luggage into the house.

First he put his clothes in a bedroom. Then he brought his books to the study. But there

was no room for them. It was filled to the brim with rolls of paper, notepads, and STACKS AND STACKS of notebooks.

The butler and maid appeared behind him.

"Look!" cried Snootysnout,
startling Billy. "These are all
the NOTES you'll need to write the

introduction to the book."

"Introduction?" Billy wondered.

"Of course," said Dreamella. "Let us know when you've finished, and we'll bring you the rest."

Billy was starting to get a **B**XD feeling. "The rest?"

"Why, these notes are just a start," Dreamella told him. "In the basement there are 389 bookshelves full of notes, 1,755

chests full of notebooks, and 5,016 rolls of paper! Aren't you excited?"

Billy FALNTED on top of a pile of paper. That's where Creepella found him.

"You've fainted again?" she asked with a sigh.

William shook his head. "Ah, these young mice today. As soft as cream cheese!"

When he came to, Billy decided he might as well help the ghosts write the history of Squeakspeare Mansion. After all, he was happy to live in his family home. There was just one small PROBLEM. He soon discovered that the thirteen ghosts liked to clean the house . . . at MIDNIGHT!





Creepella's article was published in the next issue of *THE SHIVERY NEWS*. It was such a



success that she decided to write a book. She wrote all about her adventure at Squeakspeare Mansion.

"I'M FINISHED!" she cried, as she typed her last line. "Now it's time for me to CONQUER the world of books!"

"You have to find someone to publish it first," Bitewing pointed out.

"Of course!" Creepella said. "And I have just the right rodent in mind. Are you ready to FLUTTER all the way to New Mouse City?"

"Hee hee hee!" Bitewing laughed as he flapped around her desk. "I get it! You're talking about *Geronimo Stilton*. But are you sure he's the right one? He's a big scaredy-mouse!"

"Don't worry," Creepella said confidently.

"I'm sure that even he won't be able to resist my GHILLING story. It's a truly THRILLING tale!"

THE END



A THRILLING BESTSELLER!

Can you guess? The book was a colossal SUCCESS! The publisher (that's me, Geronimo Stilton) was flooded with FAN MAIL. The phone rang all the time. Everyone asked the same question:







I didn't know how to answer. Then my cell phone rang, and it was CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR!

"So, my dear, did you like the story?" she squealed.

I had to admit that even I had enjoyed her **SCary** story.

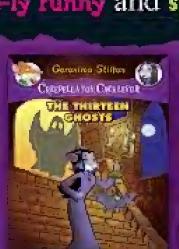
"Congratulations, CREEPELLA!" I told her. "It's a truly THRILLING bestseller!"





Meet CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR

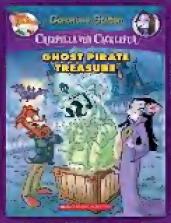
I, Geronimo Stilton, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as spooky as my friend CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR! She is an enchanting and MYSTERIOUS mouse with a pet bat named Bitewing. YIKES! I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think CREEPELLA and her family are AMMEDILLY fascinating. I can't wait for you to read all about CREEPELLA in these Fa-mouse-ly funny and spectacularly spooky tales!



#1 The Thirteen Ghosts



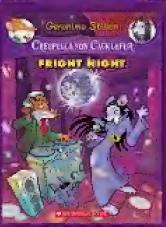
#2 Meet Me In Horrorwood



#3 Ghost Pirate Treasure



#4 Return of the Vampire



#5 Fright Night

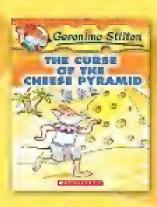
Don't miss any of my fabumouse adventures!



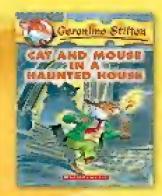
#1 Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye

Garonimo Stifton

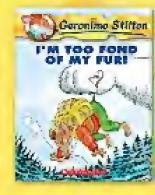
OST TREASURE



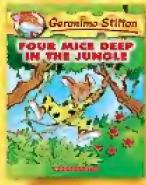
#2 The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid



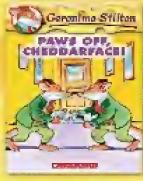
#3 Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House



#4 I'm Too Fond of My Fur!



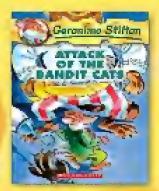
#5 Four Mice Deep in the Jungle



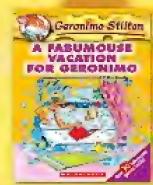
#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



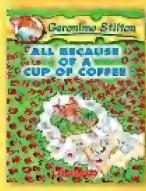
#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



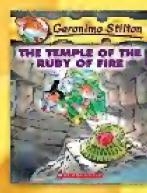
#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



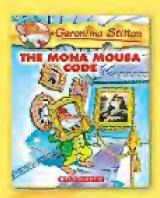
#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



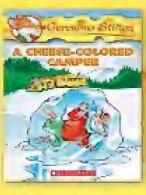
#13 The Phantom of the Subway



#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



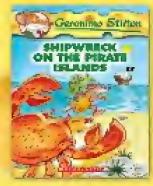
#15 The Mona Mousa Code



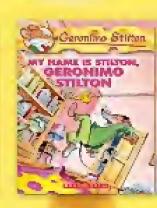
#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



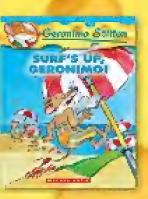
#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



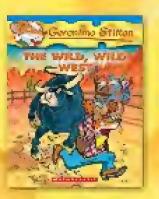
#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



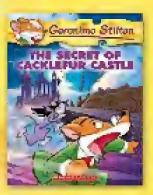
#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



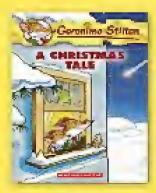
#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!



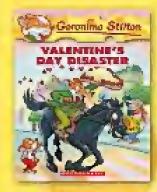
#21 The Wild, Wild West



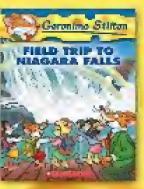
#22 The Secret of Cacklefur Castle



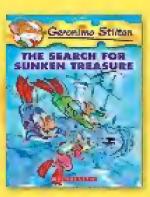
A Christmas Tale



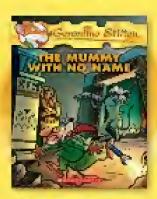
#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



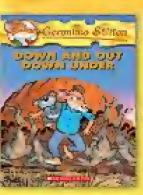
#26 The Mommy with No Name



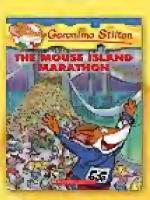
#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



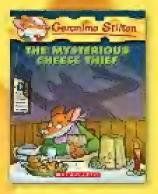
#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



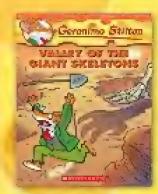
#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



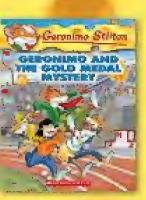
#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



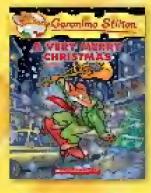
#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



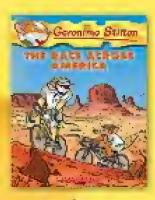
#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



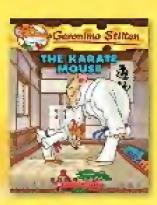
#37 The Race Across America



#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



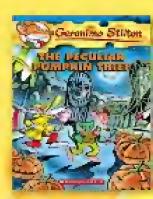
#39 Singing Sensation



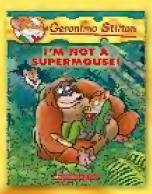
#40 The Karate Mouse



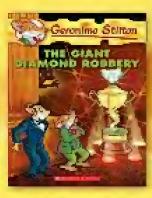
#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



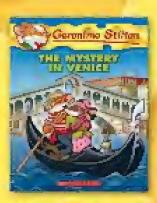
#45 Save the White Whale!



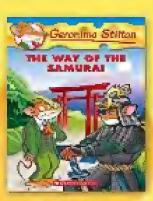
#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



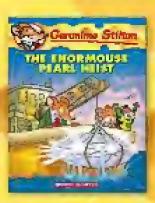
#48 The Mystery in Venice



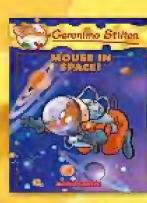
#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Hotel Is Haunted



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



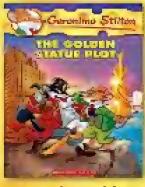
#52 Mouse in Space!



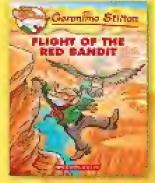
#53 Rumble in the Jungle



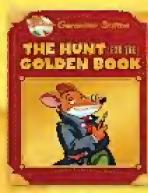
#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



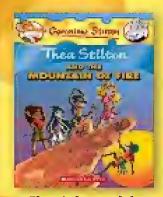
Special Edition: The Hunt for the Golden Book



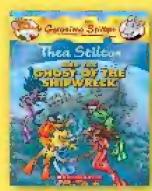
Check out these exciting Thea Sisters adventures!



Thea Stilton and the Dragon's Code



Thea Stilton and the Mountain of Fire



Thea Stillon and the Ghost of the Shipwrock



Thea Stilton and the Secret City



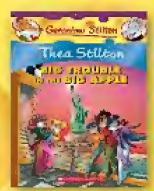
Thea Stillon and the Mystery in Paris



Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure



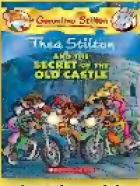
Thea Stilton and the Star Castaways



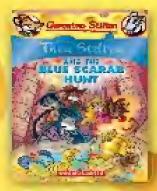
Thea Stilton: Big Trouble in the Big Apple



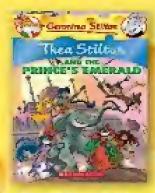
Thea Stilton and the



Thea Stiller and the Secret of the Old Castle



Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt



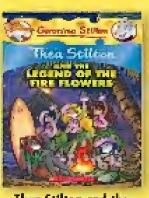
Thea Stilton and the Prince's Emerald



Then Stillen and the Mystery on the Orient Express



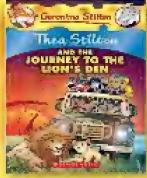
Thea Stillion and the Danding Shadows



Thea Stillon and the Legend of the Fire Flowers



Theo Stilton and the Spanish Dance Mission



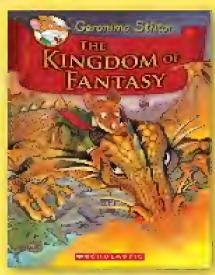
Thea Stilton and the Journey to the Lion's Den



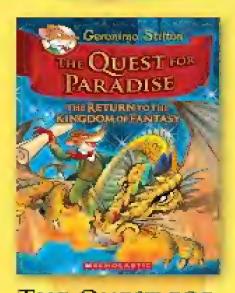
Thea Stifton and the Great Tulip Heist



Be sure
to read all
my adventures
in the Kingdom
of Fantasy!

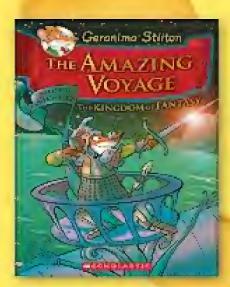


THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



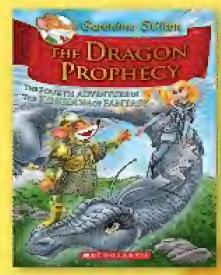
THE QUEST FOR PARADISE:

THE RETURN TO THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



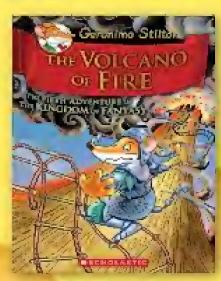
THE AMAZING
VOYAGE:
THE THIRD ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM

OF FANTASY



THE DRAGON
PROPHECY:
THE FOURTH ADVENTUR

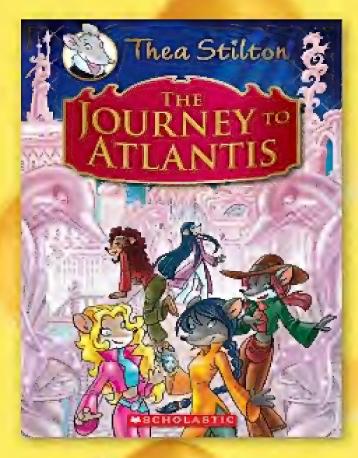
THE FOURTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE VOLCANO
OF FIRE:
THE FIFTH ADVENTURE
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OF FANTASY



Check out
these very
special editions
featuring me
and the Thea
Sisters!



THE JOURNEY TO ATLANTIS



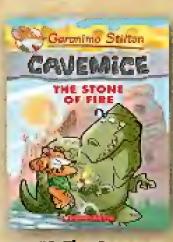
THE SECRET OF THE FAIRIES



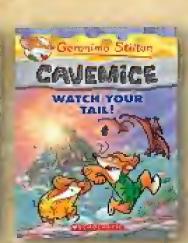
Meet GERONIMO STILTONOOT

He is a cavemouse—Geronimo Stilton's ancient ancestor! He runs the stone newspaper in the prehistoric village of Old Mouse City. From dealing with dinosaurs to dodging meteorites, his life in the Stone Age is full of adventure!

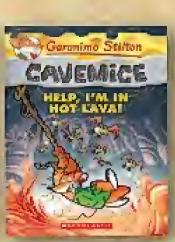




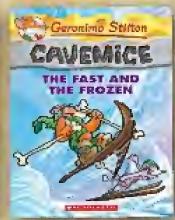
#1 The Stone of Fire



#2 Watch Your Tail!



#3 Help, I'm in Hot Lava!



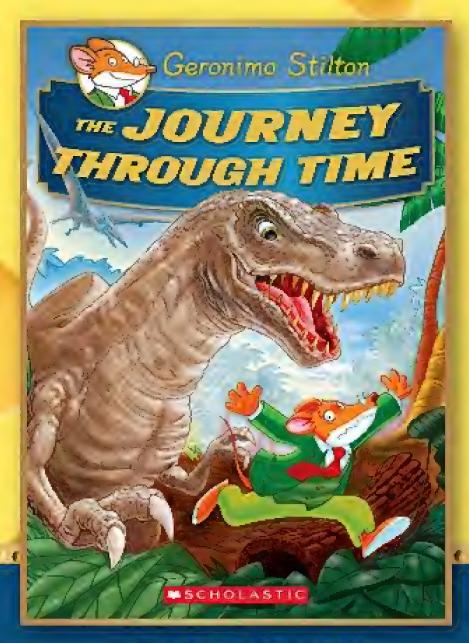
#4 The Fast and the Frozen





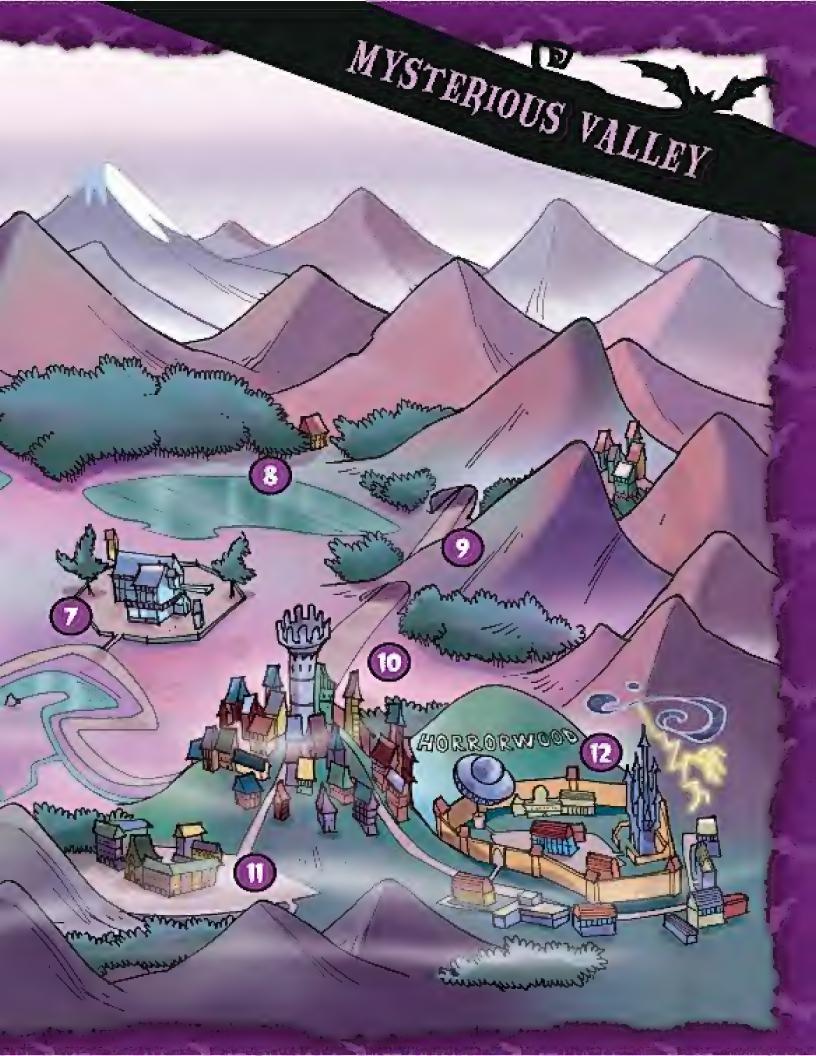


Join me and my friends on a journey through time in this very special edition!



THE JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME



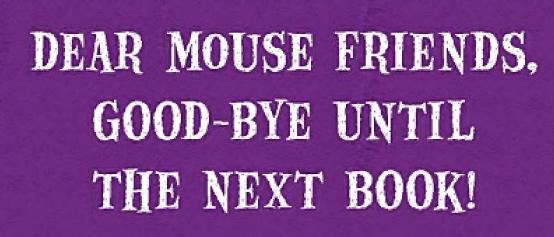




CACRLEFUR CASTLE

- 1. Oozing moat
- 2. Drawbridge
- 3. Grand entrance
- 4. Moldy basement
- 5. Patio, with a view of the moat
- b. Dusty library
- 7. Room for unwanted guests
- 8. Mummy room
- 9. Watchtower
- 10. Creaking staircase
- 11. Banquet room

- 12. Garage (for antique hearses)
- 13. Bewitched tower
- 14. Garden of carnivorous plants
- 15. Stinky kitchen
- 16. Crocodile pool and piranha tank
- 17. Creepella's room
- 18. Tower of musky tarantulas
- 19. Bitewing's tower (with antique contraptions)





Meet Creepella von Cacklefur

Creepella is an enchanting and mysterious mouse with a pet bat named Bitewing.

By night Creepella is a special-effects designer and director of scary films, and by day she's studying to become a journalist!

THE THIRTEEN GHOSTS

Creepella is writing a chilling story for
The Shivery News, so she and her niece,
Shivereen, head to scary Squeakspeare
Mansion to interview some ghosts. When
they get there, they meet Billy Squeakspeare,
a famouse writer who has just inherited the
mansion. Billy is too much of a 'fraidy mouse to go
inside alone, so Creepella and Shivereen lead the
way. But will the spooky rooms and ghosts inside



be friendly — or frightening?